# Ripped from the **ROUNDUP**

Ripped straight from the pages of old Space News Roundups, here's what happened at JSC on this date:

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istance between the Marsbound Mariner IV spacecraft and the Earth is increasing by about one million miles a day, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced recently.

May 14, after 167 days in space, Mariner IV is 80 million miles from Earth and has traveled 253 million miles in its separate orbit. Its velocity relative to the Earth is 46,500 miles per hour, and 51,000 miles per hour relative to the Sun.

Straight-line distance between Earth and the spacecraft will be 134 million miles when Mariner IV makes its closest approach to Mars July 14.

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early 100 employees and their families skipped out to the JSC Child Care Center for grand opening ceremonies Sunday to witness ribbon and cake cuttings and tour the new facility.

The Child Care Center opened its doors to 54 children Monday. The 3,600-square-foot center, which took about six months to build, can accommodate 62 children, 20 infants, 12 toddlers and 30 pre-schoolers.

Operational funding was generated by donations and tuition. Much of the finishing work was done by parents and volunteers.

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n board the Mir Space Station, cosmonaut-researcher Norm Thaggard and his two crewmates, Commander Vladimir Dezhurov and Flight Engineer Gennadiy Strekalov, are preparing for next Friday's planned space walk, the first of four extravehicular activities to ready the orbiting space station for the arrival of *Atlantis* in June.

Dezhurov and Strekalov are checking out their spacesuits, umbilicals and tools, and also beginning some special exercises designed to condition their arms and hands for the demanding work of the space walk.

Thagard is continuing to study the Mir environment as he and his crewmates end their seventh week on orbit. Last weekend, he used a sampler to test the air on Mir for post-



## NMA White Sands Chapter announces winners of speech contest

By Steve McDougle

he NASA White Sands Chapter of the National Management Association held its annual American Enterprise Speech Contest on March 16. The first place winner was Christina Marie Curry from Mesilla Valley Christian School. Lance Barrett from Mayfield High School took second place. Stephanie Ramirez, also from Mayfield High School, finished third. Lance Barrett is the son of Denise Barrett, Honeywell Engineering Laboratories secretary at White Sands Test Facility, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

The Las Cruces Toastmasters Club 4509 provided judges for the event, held at the Gerald Thomas Hall at New Mexico State University. Cash prizes of \$200, \$150, and \$100 were awarded to the first, second, and third place winners. About 40 people were in the audience to hear the contestants give their views on the American Enterprise System. The title of Curry's speech was "www.e-commerce.com."

Curry will represent the NASA White Sands Chapter of NMA in May at the Southwest Regional Competition in Oklahoma City. The Chapter will pay all expenses for Curry and a chaperone to go to the conference, where she will compete for a \$2,000 first place prize and a chance to represent the southwest area at the national competition to be held in October.



High school students, from left, Christina Curry, Lance Barrett, and Stephanie Ramirez took top honors at the NMA American Enterprise Speech Contest.

## **GILRUTH CENTER NEWS**

#### Sign up policy:

All classes and athletic activities are on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up in person at the Gilruth Center and show a yellow Gilruth or weight room badge. Classes tend to fill up two weeks in advance. Payment must be made in full, cash or by check, at the time of registration. No registration will be taken by telephone. For more information, call x33345.

#### Gilruth badges:

Required for use of the Gilruth Center. Employees, spouses, eligible dependents, NASA retirees and spouses may apply for photo identification badges from 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Cost is \$10. Dependents must be between 16 and 23 years old.

Open from 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 6:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Contact the Gilruth Center at (281) 483-3345. http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/ah/exceaa/Gilruth/Gilruth.htm

**Nutrition intervention program**: Six-week program includes lectures, a private consultation with the dietitian and blood analysis to chart your progress. Program is open to all employees, contractors and spouses. For details call Tammie Shaw at x32980.

**Defensive driving**: One-day course is offered once a month at the Gilruth Center. Pre-registration required. Cost is \$25. Call for next available class.

Stamp club: Meets every second and fourth Monday at 7 p.m. in Rm. 216.

**Weight safety**: Required course for employees wishing to use the Gilruth weight room. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$5. Annual weight room use fee is \$90. The cost for additional family members is \$50.

**Exercise**: Low-impact class meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Cost is \$24 for eight weeks.

**Step/bench aerobics**: Low-impact cardiovascular workout. Classes meet from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is \$32 for eight weeks. Kristen Taraszewski, instructor.

**Yoga**: Stretching class of low-impact exercises designed for people of all ages and abilities in a Westernized format. Meets Thursdays 5-6 p.m. Cost is \$32 for eight weeks. Call Darrell Matula, instructor, at x38520 for more information.

Ballroom dancing: Classes meet Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for beginner,

8:30-9:30 p.m. for intermediate and 7:30-8:30 p.m. for advanced. Cost is \$60 per couple.

Country and western dancing: Beginner class meets 7-8:30 p.m. Monday. Advanced class (must know basic steps to all dances) meets 8:30-10 p.m. Monday. Cost is \$20 per couple.

**Fitness program**: Health-related fitness program includes a medical screening examination and a 12-week individually prescribed exercise program. For details call Larry Wier at x30301.

**Aikido**: Martial arts class for men and women meets 5-6 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. No special equipment or knowledge is needed to participate. Aikido teaches balance and control to defend against an opponent without using strength or force. Beginning and advanced classes start each month. Cost is \$35 per month.

### TICKET WINDOW

#### The following discount tickets are available at the Exchange Stores General Cinema Theaters ......\$5.50 Astroworld Early Bird (use by June 18) ......\$17.25 Moody Gardens (2 events) (does not include Aquarium Pyramid) . . . . . . . . \$10.75 Space Center Houston . . . . . adult . . \$11.00 . . . . child (age 4-11) . . . . \$7.25 (JSC civil service employees free.) Space Center Houston annual pass ......\$18.75

#### **Exchange Store hours**

Monday-Friday Bldg. 3 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Bldg. 11 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

- ➤ All tickets are nonrefundable.
- ➤ Metro tokens and value cards are available.

For additional information, please call x35350.

Please bring your driver's license to pay by personal check.